



THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

**CONFIDENTIAL**

17 FEBRUARY 1976

1.5 (C)

1. [REDACTED] ADMIRAL JOSE MERINO, NAVY MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS SERVED THE CHILEAN PEOPLE REASONABLY WELL, WITH ONE EXCEPTION - CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. MERINO BLAMED PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET FOR THIS LATTER FAILURE, ON THE BASIS THAT THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL

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INTELLIGENCE (DINA), WHICH HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF MANY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO PINOCHET. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE PINOCHET IS PROUD OF DINA FOR ITS SUCCESS IN LARGELY ELIMINATING THE SUBVERSIVE THREAT IN CHILE, PINOCHET IS NOW AWARE THAT DINA HAS BEEN GUILTY OF EXCESSES.

2. MERINO SAID THAT HE WILL INSIST [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT THERE BE A FULL DISCUSSION OF DINA'S ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT ADDITIONAL MEASURES BE TAKEN TO INSURE AGAINST A RECURRENCE OF THE SAME. MERINO ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DINA DISBANDED, OR AT LEAST REORGANIZED, WITH COLONEL MANUEL CONTERERAS BEING REMOVED AS DINA'S DIRECTOR. [REDACTED] COMMENT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PINOCHET TOLD ARMY GENERALS IN LATE JANUARY THAT HE PLANNED CHANGES IN DINA, BUT THAT CONTERERAS'S REMOVAL WAS NOT ONE OF THEM.)

3. MERINO SAID THAT ADVERSE HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICITY HAS HAD A PARTICULARLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE NAVY'S EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE BADLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE OF SHEILA CASSIDY, A BRITISH CITIZEN WHO WAS DETAINED FOR

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(classification)

ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN AIDING TERRORISTS SOUGHT BY THE SECURITY FORCES, HAS INEXCUSABLE. HE MAINTAINED THAT SPECIAL ACTION, INCLUDING AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE BRITISH IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THIS PRIME SUPPLIER OF CHILEAN NAVAL EQUIPMENT. MERINO SAID THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY WRITTEN A NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL LETTERS TO INFLUENTIAL BRITISH FRIENDS IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDO SOME OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CASSIDY INCIDENT.

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